



**THE LITERACY COUNCIL**  
*A PARTNER IN READING*

2301 First Avenue North  
Suite 102  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203  
Phone: 205-326-1925  
1-888-448-7323  
Fax: 205-326-0538

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United Way  
of Central Alabama, Inc.

Chairman Julius Genachowski, FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C., 20554

May 18, 2011

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG  
for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations  
( WT Docket No. 11-65 ).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Education has always been and will always be one of the issues of greatest concern to the people of America. As an organization whose primary goal is to educate our communities and fight illiteracy, we recognize the importance that broadband holds for accomplishing our mission. Broadband provides invaluable tools for helping students achieve their educational goals despite other obstacles they may face. It allows adults who cannot receive a traditional education a chance utilize distance learning resources. It gives young students the resources that will allow them to learn from home as well as the classroom.

Unfortunately, much like the problem of illiteracy, there is a digital divide that is preventing many citizens in rural and low-income areas from access to this valuable tool. For many people in rural areas of Alabama, high-speed Internet access is simply not available. We believe this should not be the case in this day and age. Broadband access must be expanded to cover all people in all parts of the country, whether urban or rural.

AT&T and T-Mobile have plans to make this dream a reality, pending the completion of their merger. With their combined resources, the two companies plan to expand 4G LTE mobile broadband coverage to almost all of the country, including rural areas. Our organization believes this is a wonderful opportunity for the underserved people of Alabama to gain Internet access and take advantage of all it has to offer. This will not only improve education and literacy in our communities, but it will help all of America enter the digital age together.

I strongly urge you to support the combining of AT&T and T-Mobile and all the benefits it offers the American people. I truly believe all people stand to gain a tremendous amount from it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Wilder  
President and Executive Director  
The Literacy Council